

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday 29th November 2006 7:15 for 7:45

The Statistical Laboratory,
Centre for Mathematical Sciences,
Wilberforce Road, Cambridge

'Aftermath' to Royal Statistical Society's report ('Performance Indicators: Good, Bad, and Ugly') on Performance Monitoring in the Public Services

Sheila Bird
MRC Biostatistics Unit

Abstract: After a brief introduction to the RSS report and its recommendations, Sheila will outline the aftermath for the RSS Working Party (workshops, roadshows, political and media, consultations, and methodological) with specific reference to criminal justice and 'war on drugs' applications. The RSS report Performance indicators: good, bad, and ugly JRSS A, 168, 1-27, 2005 is freely available on-line at <http://www.rss.org.uk/PDF/PerformanceMonitoring.pdf>.

Speaker: Professor Sheila Bird is a Senior statistician at MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge and visiting professor of Department of Statistics and Modelling Science, University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. Previous posts at Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Awarded RSS Guy medal in bronze (1989) and Bradford Hill medal (2000). Awarded Fellowship by distinction of Faculty of Public Health of the UK Royal Colleges of Physicians (2005). Co-author of Statistics and Practice and of Transplantation: Sense and Sensitization. Past member of Medical Section Committee (1976-1979); member of RSS working parties on official statistics (1989-91) and on drugs and drug regulation; Chair of RSS Working Party on Performance Monitoring in the Public Services (2003-04); member of scientific programme committee for RSS99 on risk and co-organiser of one-day meeting on drugs and criminal statistics (1999) and appraisal of cost-effectiveness (2001). Statistician-member of UK's appraisal committee for National Institute for Clinical Excellence (1999-2005), Home Office's Science and Technology Reference Group, scientific committee of European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2001-2005), and formerly of EU's ad hoc BSE/TSE subgroup.

Directions: The main entrance is reached from Clarkson Road by going along the footpath to the right of the Newton Institute, and turning left through the gatehouse towards the main building (Pavilion A), which has a glass front and a curved grassed roof. The main entrance is in the middle of the glass front. Coffee before the talk will be in the common room in Pavilion D, and the talk will be in Meeting Room 5 in Pavilion A.. Free Parking is available after 5pm on Clarkson and Wilberforce Roads. SUSAN TO SEND IN FEW WEEKS (4/10)

Provisional Next Meetings (2007):

6th February – Julia Gog (Zoology).

7th March – Zoubin Ghahramani (Engineering) on 'Retrieving Information using a Bayesian Model of Generalization'.

4th April – Matt Whitley (Amgen) on ''.

Supper: Some members eat before a talk at the University Centre meeting in the downstairs bar at 6pm. All welcome !

Subscriptions: of 1 pound are now due for attending the 2006-2007 session.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 801; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2004-2005

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2004-2005 was held at the MRC Cognition & Brain Sciences Unit on 4th October 2005. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Steve Brooks, Tim Cole, Margaret Corbett, John Dickins, Margaret Ely, Mary Garratt, Diana Gillooly, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott, Roger Sewell, Christiana Spyrou, Peter Treasure, Peter Watson. **Apologies:** Anthony Edwards, Joe Perry, Nasrollah Saebi, Helen Tate.

The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The **Treasurer** presented the accounts which showed a healthy balance due to reduced costs. It was agreed to have a discussion on future payment schemes to reduce income and other group issues in a preliminary session preceding a talk near the end of the 2005-2006 session. In the meantime it was agreed subscriptions should stay at £4 for the coming session. The **Secretary** reported attendance seemed to have benefitted from more frequent publicity of meetings.

Election of officers and committee: Haidee Philpott was nominated as an ordinary member to replace Tim Sparks who stepped down after many years service. Committee for 2005-2006: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Ely ; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Haidee Philpott, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: None

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2005-2006

The Annual General Meeting for the year 2005-2006 was held at the MRC Cognition & Brain Sciences Unit on 3rd October 2006. Present: Ted Harding (in chair), Lia Arraiano, Margaret Corbett, Nick Galwey, Sarah Griffiths, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott, Krys Kelly, Matthew Ritchie, Brian Shand, Helen Tate, Peter Treasure, Peter Watson, Jinghua Zhao. **Apologies:** Mary Garratt, Ian Nimmo-Smith.

The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The group finances showed a healthy balance of £250 due to reduced costs. It was agreed subscriptions should, therefore, be reduced to £1 for 2006-2007.

Election of officers and committee: Helen Tate became treasurer replacing Margaret Ely who had left with our good wishes to work in the Gambia. Pamela Morris was elected as an ordinary member. Committee for 2006-2007: *chair* Ted Harding; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Helen Tate ; *officio* Dave Andrews; *ordinary* Margaret Corbett, Pamela Morris, Haidee Philpott.

Any Other Business: None